

## Week in Review

January 28, 2022

The Kentucky General Assembly finished the fourth week of the 2022 session Friday. With redistricting in the hands of the Courts and the budget in the hands of the Senate, things began to move a little slower as the week wore on. But the introduction of new bills continued this week as well, with close to 550 have been filed as of Friday.

The week was saw the passing of the candidate filing deadline—the doors to the Secretary of State’s office closed to new candidate filings at 4:00PM on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Republican candidates filed at least one candidate in 89 of the House races, and Democrats filed in 60 of the races. One notable change was a surprising withdrawal. The House Minority Leader, Joni Jenkins of Shively, announced that she will be withdrawing from the race, bringing to an end multi-decade legislative work in Frankfort.

On the legislation front—a lot of action is taking place as new bills are introduced, bills are referred to Committees, and then Committee chairs are figuring out their plans for hearings over the next few weeks. Though the House Bill 1 quickly made its way to the Senate in unprecedented timing, many eagerly await upcoming action in the Senate. The Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee now has possession of the budget bill, and has begun to pull the budget apart and compare the House’s priorities against their own.

Another bill to watch from this week is Senate Bill 8, sponsored by Senator Julie Raque Adams. SB 8 is a broad plan to expand aid for abused and neglected children. The bill has had its second reading in the Senate and has gained substantial attention in the General Assembly and in the news.

Legislators will continue to file new bills until the deadlines for new bills in the House (Feb. 28) and Senate (March 2). Friday was the 22<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Day of the session. Top Shelf will continue to keep you up to date on all the news and actions coming out of Frankfort.

2022 Regular Session Calendar

**Legislation of Interest**

SB8- AN ACT relating to child welfare and declaring an emergency. SB 8 is another step in the ongoing process of improving the care and services rendered to children in or in danger of entering the state child welfare system. SB 8 is waiting for action on the Senate floor.

SB88- Create a new section of KRS Chapter 6 to establish parameters for the General Assembly when called into session by Joint Proclamation; amend KRS 6.190 and 6.211 to adjust the compensation of members of the General Assembly during a veto recess period. Last session the General Assembly passed a bill adding a Constitutional Amendment to the 2022 election ballot that, if adopted, will allow the General Assembly to call itself into special session. SB 88 is the enabling legislation that spells out how it will work if voters approve of the measure on the ballot. The bill passed the Senate is waiting on Committee assignment in the House.

HB188- HB 188 is a limited update to the telehealth statute, and it will bar professional licensure boards from prohibiting the delivery of telehealth services to residents of Kentucky who are temporarily located outside of Kentucky by health service providers credentialed in Kentucky. It will allow Kentucky residents who are temporarily out of state to access their health care providers through approved telehealth portals.

SB100- Senate Bill 100 creates a new category, an ‘essential caregiver’, of person who can be designated as being allowed to visit individuals in long term care facilities, during emergencies when long term care facilities limit who may enter their facility to visit residents, even though they are not immediate family. SB 100 is waiting for action in the House.